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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CHILE

IPF:(1992-96) $9 450 000

(CHI/92/009) - Strengthening of the Chilean Disaster Management System

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	5 August 1992
Expected duration:	18 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior (ONEMI)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 276 300 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 276 300

Project background

Chile is a disaster prone country. A major earthquake occurs on the average every 10 years; and floods/landslides are a common yearly occurrence. Some of the most recent events have included the eruption of the Hudson volcano (8-15 August 1991) producing as much as six km3 of lava and ash causing permanent damage to agriculture and cattle; and Antofagasta landslides which have produced 250 deaths and left hundreds of people homeless.

Despite the history of disasters, Chile has, thus far, not developed any systematic disaster prevention system. Neither the National Office for Emergency (ONEMI) nor any other organization in the country, has defined a set of policies for civil protection that could be enforced by the public sector and the population before, during and after a particular emergency. There is no reliable early warning system and coordination mechanisms with other related public services are, at best, weak (meteorological service, geophysics university's departments, police, and army).

Fundamentally, disaster relief is left to the initiative of local leaders. While this type of community action has proven to be reasonably effective in mobilizing national and international humanitarian relief, the Government of Chile now intends to systematize, formalize and institutionalize a disaster mitigation strategy. To this end, it has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to strengthen the Chilean disaster management system.

[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) update and modernize the public sector structure and legal framework for disaster warning, prevention, preparedness and relief; (b) promote the concept of disaster prevention in all public development programmes, for all sectors and at all levels of the Government; and (c) design disaster management training and information programmes and strategies addressed to public institutions, NGOs and the general public.

Inputs

UNDP will provide short-term international consultants in disaster management and 55 work-months of national consultants in fields such as risk and damage evaluation, geographic information systems, regional planning, organizational development and administrative law; subcontracts for the creation of data banks and the preparation of risk maps and training and information material; on-the-job training, workshop and study tours for NGOs and ONEMI'S Regional Directors; and equipment including PC and minor communications equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	166 800
Subcontract	56 000
Training	40 000
Equipment	8 500
Miscellaneous	5 000
Total	276 300

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